

**WHAT IS CLAIMS IS:**

1        1. A method for processing and separating an imbricate formation of flexible, flat objects,  
2        in particular, printed products, with which the flat objects by way of product feed comprising a  
3        conveyor means are continuously fed in an essentially regular formation to a transfer module and  
4        from this are transferred to a conveyor module, characterized in that flat objects are fluently fed  
5        to a guide means, that the flat objects during their conveying are brought into an obliquely standing  
6        position by the guide means, and that the flat objects from this position individually or in a defined  
7        number are separated from the remaining flat objects by way of a separating means, and conveyed  
8        away by a conveyor means.

1        2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the flat objects with the feeding onto a guide  
2        surface of the guide means are conveyed lying in an overlapping manner, wherein the trailing edge  
3        of a flat object in each case lies over the leading edge of the subsequent flat object, and the objects  
4        during the transport over the guide surface are continuously erected, wherein on removal of the flat  
5        objects from the guide means the obliquely standing position of the flat objects is inclined opposite  
6        to the transport direction.

1        3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the flat objects are folded sheets, wherein  
2        the fold of each folded sheet in a trailing manner lies over the respective subsequent folded sheet  
3        and the folded sheets which stand obliquely on removal from the guide means stand on their cut-

4 edge side.

1       4. The method according to claim 2, wherein the flat objects are folded sheets, wherein  
2 the fold of each folded sheet in a trailing manner lies over the respective subsequent folded sheet  
3 and the folded sheets which stand obliquely on removal from the guide means stand on their cut-  
4 edge side.

1       5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the erection of the flat objects is effected  
2 by active braking or acceleration of the flat objects at least one edge by way of conveyor means.

1       6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the flat objects on removal are actively  
2 transferred into an obliquely standing position in the conveying direction by way of folding-over  
3 means.

1       7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the flat objects before removal are  
2 displaced transversely to their main conveying direction.

1       8. A device for carrying out the method according to claim 1 with a product feed,  
2 comprising a conveyor means with a transfer module arranged after this and with a conveyor  
3 module for removal of flat objects from the transfer module;  
4       wherein the transfer module contains a guide means which comprises a guide surface which

5 at least in regions is inclined with respect to the horizontal, and that on the side proximal to the  
6 removal device there is arranged a brim or abutment.

1 9. The device according to claim 8, wherein the guide surface at least in regions is  
2 designed concave or convex, or comprises at least two sections with a different inclination of the  
3 guide surface.

1 10. The device according to claim 8, wherein the inclination of the guide surface at least  
2 in regions is more than 30°.

1 11. The device according to claim 8, wherein in that the guide surface comprises guide  
2 elements which serve for the regional acceleration and/or braking of the flat objects.

1 12. The device according to claim 8, wherein in that the brim or the abutment is arranged  
2 movable with respect to the guide means.

1 13. The device according to claim 8, wherein, on that side of the guide means which is  
2 proximal to the removal device, there are arranged active means for separating individual objects  
3 or groups of objects.

1 14. The device according to claim 8, wherein the brim or the abutment comprises movable

2 elements conveying the objects in the removal direction.

1 15. The device according to claim 8, wherein, in the removal region of the objects, there  
2 are arranged means for transversely displacing the objects.

1 16. The device according to claim 8, wherein, above the guide means, there are arranged  
2 retaining means acting on the free edge of the objects.